

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-14 are pending in the application. No new matter has been introduced by the response.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Adachi et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0100598) in view of Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,341,231) and further in view of Gotoh et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0154256). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections based on the following remarks.

The Examiner has conceded that Adachi fails to specifically disclose a low refractive index layer disposed on the light guide panel having a second refractive index that is lower than the first refractive index. The Examiner attempted to overcome this deficiency of the Adachi reference by asserting that Yamamoto discloses an LCD having a low refractive index layer disposed on the light guide panel having a second refractive index that is lower than the first refractive index (Office Action, page 2). The Examiner has further conceded that Adachi lacks disclosure of no substrate disposed between the liquid crystal and the light guide plate. The Examiner attempted to overcome this deficiency of the Adachi reference by asserting that Gotoh discloses an LCD (Fig. 24, ref. F) where there is no substrate disposed between the liquid crystal (309a) and the light guide plate (EM) (Office Action, page 3).

The modification as suggested by the Examiner, however, results in a structure different from what is claimed in the present application. Gotoh describes the liquid-crystal display panel (SB) in which the light guide plate

(EM) is disposed within the liquid crystal cell (see Fig. 24). Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully asserts that there is no apparent way that the liquid crystal display panel (SB) could be disposed on an upper portion of the low refractive index layer, which in turn would be disposed on the light guide panel (EM).

In contrast, the LCD module recited in independent claim 1 comprises a transmissive liquid crystal display panel disposed on an upper portion of the low refractive index layer, which is disposed on the light guide panel, and no substrate is disposed between the liquid crystal and the light guide panel.

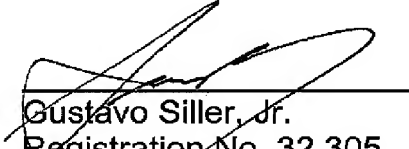
In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that Adachi in view of Yamamoto and further in view of Gotoh does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations and thus a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established (see MPEP 2143). Accordingly rejection against independent claim 1, and thus rejections against claims 2-4, 6-10 and 12-14, which all depend from independent claim 1, have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

2. Conclusion

Based on the above amendment and remarks, the Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 1, 2007



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